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A method is disclosed, where the RX unit of an IP telephone waits for a first silence indication packet to be received. When the first silence indication packet is received, the RX begins attenuating incoming packets. The rate of attenuation may occur at a rate responsive to an indication provided by the TX unit. The RX unit also mixes comfort noise with the attenuated incoming packets. The RX unit the waits for a second silence indication packet to be received. When the second silence indication is received the RX unit mixes in comfort noise at a level responsive to an indication provided by the TX unit. The RX units then waits for voice packets to be received from the TX unit. When normal voice activity resumes, the RX unit stops the generation of comfort noise and begins playing voice packets again.